

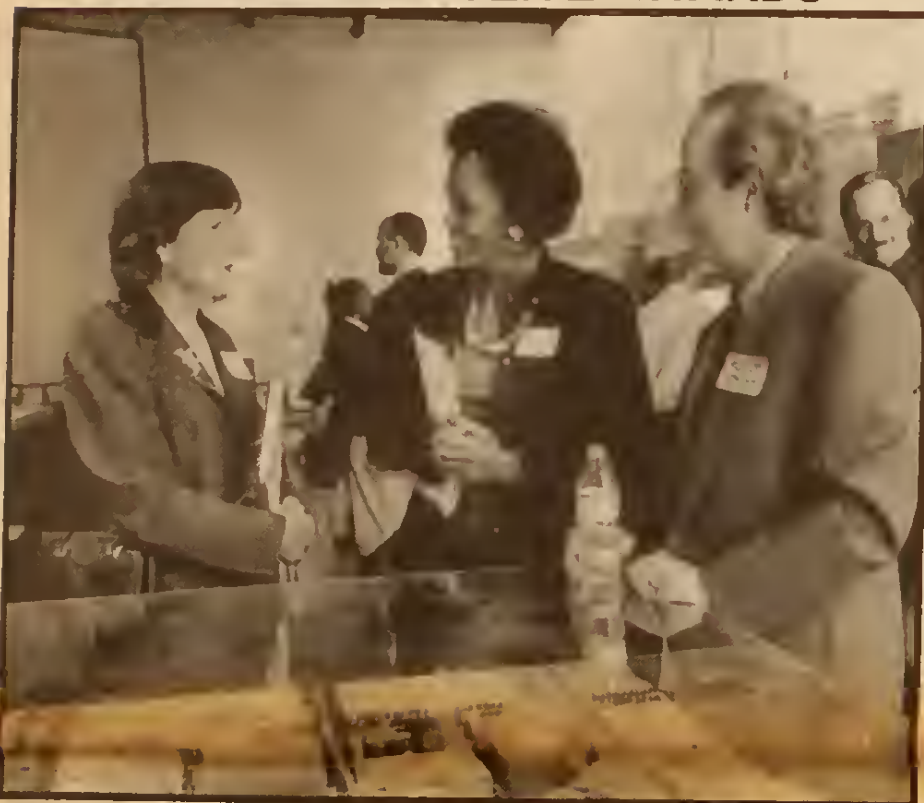


June 2002

Volume XXXIII, No. 5

FREE

PARTICIPANTS IN LOCAL HIRING PROGRAM RECEIVE AWARDS



Community agencies, organized labor, and construction companies were recently honored by the University of California at San Francisco for their efforts to increase local hiring at the UCSF Mission Bay campus. Among those attending the special program was San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell (center), shown chatting with Dorothy Gainton, MD, UCSF vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Bruce Spaulding, UCSF vice chancellor for advancement and planning.

The Community Construction Workforce Program who awarded the groups, has created a mechanism to ensure that community groups work with building contractors to maximize the number of local residents hired for construction jobs at UCSF Mission Bay, and other major campus projects.

Photo credit: UCSF News Services

Cooling System Called an "Obstacle"

Power Plant Hearings Scheduled for July

By Mike Thomas

The California Energy Commission has issued a schedule for the controversial proposal to expand the Potrero Power Plant. In April, the Energy Commission's Committee conducted a Prehearing Conference and discussed various options for proceeding with this case; witnesses proposed for the topic areas; and the estimated time required, as appropriate, for direct and cross-examination.

At the Conference, various federal and state regulatory agencies expressed clear opposition to Mirant's proposed use of a "once-through" cooling system. The agencies claimed the proposed cooling system would create significant unmitigable environmental impacts which, in light of existing feasible alternative cooling system, are unacceptable.

The Commissioners have concluded that awaiting final federal action is simply too dilatory since it is unknown when such action will occur. The Commissioners have decided to commence hearings on those topics which appear unrelated to the cooling system and provides additional time for Mirant, regulatory agencies, and parties to carefully consider the ultimate viability of the proposed cooling system.

The presiding and associate Commissioners will hold a Committee Conference after the conclusion of evidentiary presentations to assess the status of matters relevant to the cooling system. The Committee Conference will potentially provide the Commissioners further information relevant to future events in this case.

The Commissioners noted that Mirant appears to face a significant obstacle, and has significantly increased the complexity of the case by its cooling system proposal.

Each hearing session will begin at 10 a.m., at the California Public Utility Commission, 1st Floor, 505 Van Ness Ave., S.F.

- June 24, 2002 - Project Description/Traffic & Transportation/Worker Safety
- June 25, 2002 - Transmission System/Transmission Line Safety

and

- July 22, 2002 - Cultural Resources
- July 23, 2002 - Hazardous Materials Management
- July 24, 2002 - Commissioners Committee Conference

The purpose of these formal evidentiary hearings is to establish the factual record necessary to reach a decision in this case. This is done through the taking of written and oral testimony as well as exhibits from the parties.

Members of the public and interested governmental agencies are invited to attend these hearings, and may offer unsworn public comment upon the matters discussed. These public comments will be entered into the record of the proceeding and the Committee may rely on them to supplement or explain the evidence of record. Public comments by themselves, however, are not sufficient to support a finding of fact or a decision on an issue.

Mike Thomas is active in Communities for a Better Environment.

A Traveler's Notebook

You CAN Visit Cuba — Bring Dollars and An Open Mind

By Ruth Passen

I went to Cuba in early February. But it's O.K., the government knew about it.

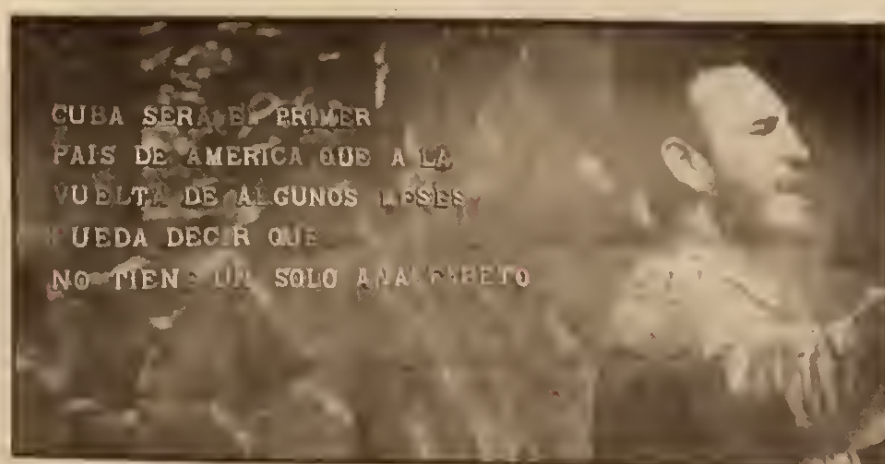
As you know, our country has had an economic blockade against Cuba since 1963 when the Cuban Assets Control Regulations were issued by the U.S. government under the Trading With the Enemy Act. Many Americans worry that they will be targeted for investigation if they even think of going there. But it's not actually against the law to travel to Cuba, it's just that you aren't supposed to spend any money there. O.K., so I didn't spend much money. However, Cubans welcome American dollars — but bring cash, not plastic.

To my surprise, I found out that many people from all over the world travel to Cuba regularly. I even met an American businessman who was bound for Guantanamo Bay!

And he goes there often! (I should have pressed him for details.)

So why did I go to Cuba? I've long been intrigued by this Communist country on an island so close to our shores. I wanted to gain some insight, first-hand, on how a socialist government works — or doesn't. I was in a delegation consisting of members of Media Alliance and representatives from the Ecology Center — there were about 20 of us, all from the Bay Area. A central purpose of our trip was to see what we could learn from Cuba's efforts in sustainable agriculture, "green" medicine, and education.

I really don't know what I expected. I have been brainwashed with propaganda about Cuba's socialist society, so I was curious about its politics, of course. The Cubans I met really want us to know who they are and what they are about, and I didn't doubt their sincerity.



In Cuba, there are no commercial billboards but seen everywhere are the sayings of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. The plaque above reads: "Cuba will be the first country of America that in the passage of a few months will be able to say that it has not one illiterate individual." (Castro, 1961)

The constitution of the Republic of Cuba, in effect since 1976, establishes it as a socialist state of workers and peasants, "workers" broadly defined to include those whose labor is intellectual rather than manual. Cuba is the largest island of the West Indies group, and is about 780 miles long (California is approximately 800 miles long, north to south, but its land area is four times that of Cuba).

...

Cuba is an agricultural country, with only one city — Havana, the capital, where we were billeted — of more than two million inhabitants. Cuba is certainly not a glitzy, jet-setty

place. Many Havana neighborhoods are obviously rundown, but are kept clean by the people who live in them. Each block is organized — the residents all know what needs to be done and they do it. At least once a week, they are seen weeding, gardening, cleaning debris off the street, hauling rubbish out of buildings. Currently an infectious tropical disease called hemorrhagic dengue, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, is plaguing Havana, and the government sends teams of fumigators to affected neighborhoods. The

(Continued on Page 5)



GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (June 6) to discuss issues of public concern with members of the San Francisco Police Department. The agenda includes: Fire Station #9 Update, Bayview Police District Update, S.F. Community Power Cooperative Benefits & Services, Southeast Health Center Expansion Project, African American Family Education & Cultural Center Services & Programs, African American Community Relations Board, R.O.S.E.S. Working Committee Update/Announcements, Community Questions & Comments. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the Community Facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments after the meeting.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets on the first Monday of the month (June 3) from 4-5 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street, are open to the public.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month (next meeting: June 11) at 7 p.m., Watermark Press, 950 Tennessee Street.

PHAB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of the month (June 11) at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents Association) meets the third Tuesday of the month (June 18), 7 p.m., at the Jackson Playground Clubhouse, Arkansas and Mariposa streets.

Starr King Park Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month (next meeting: July 9) at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Potrero Branch Library (1616 20th St.). Work parties continue every month on the third Saturday (June 15), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The park is located at Carolina and 23rd streets.

Potrero Hill Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of the month (June 26) at 7:30 p.m. in the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. For details, call John deCastro, 865-0669.

Potrero Hill Garden Club meets the last Sunday of the month (June 30) at 11 a.m. for a potluck brunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussions will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets in executive session only. Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by the board may phone Elizabeth at 826-6359.

— Wini Mann



We Get Letters

District Deich

Editor:

Just got my copy of the latest and most excellently produced Potrero View. Glad to read that the 10th District was not shamelessly gerrymandered like a multitude of districts across the U.S.

Ned Bright
Skibbereen,
Co. Cork, Ireland

Extreme Measures

Editor:

Writer Dave Matsuda is surprised that Gavin Newsom's policies toward the homeless are controversial. I find them controversial to the extreme.

Joe Wilson, of Coleman Advocates for Families and Youth, estimates that 16,200 San Francisco children -- ranging in age between birth to five -- live in low-income families. And some 2,000 to 6,000 are homeless.

Jennifer Friedenbach of the Coalition on Homelessness tells me that there are some 17,000 people waiting for subsidized housing in San Francisco, and that there are over 150 families waiting for emergency shelter. Some 1,100 people are waiting for substance abuse treatment, and there is up to a one-year wait for residential mental health treatment.

Gavin Newsom believes that, by criminalizing the homeless, he will be elected mayor. I believe that there is no need to fingerprint anybody except criminals. What Gavin is really saying is that all homeless are mentally-ill drug abusers who use their entire benefit check on drugs and alcohol. This is patently absurd. Gavin's proposals will do nothing to address the underlying issues.

Harry S. Pariser
9th Avenue
San Francisco

Violent Words

Editor:

The Associated Press recently reported that California may become the first state in the country to outlaw the use of American Indian team names and mascots -- such as Braves, Redskins, and Apaches -- by public schools. Under the legislation a state commission would create a list of banned names that are "derogatory [to] any race, ethnicity, nationality or tribal group."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) hopes schools will go one step further and also ban names that promote violence against animals, such as "Packers" and "Gamecocks."

As sports fans may know, PETA recently asked Austin High School in Minnesota to send the "Packers" packing, and pick a name for its sports teams that isn't associated with the suffering of animals raised and killed for food.

Schools that use the "Packers" moniker would never call themselves the "Animal Killers," yet that's an accurate description of what "packers" -- slaughterhouse workers -- do.

Recent video exposes taken inside major "packing plants" show fully conscious animals being cut apart. In fact, last year, the union of federal meat inspectors filed a petition with the USDA charging that production lines move too fast for workers to ensure that every animal is dead before she is skinned and dis-membered.

Several years ago, the Washington Bullets basketball team changed its name to the Washington Wizards, to avoid association with deadly gun violence. It's time for other sports teams to follow suit and reject names and mascots that promote needless violence -- in all its forms.

Paula Moore
Staff Writer
PETA
Norfolk, VA.

A Precious North Beach Festival

North Beach is the place to be for a week-end of festivities June 15 and 16, at the 48th Annual Precious Cheese North Beach Festival.

Original arts and crafts, a world champion pizza tosser contest, multiple entertainment will include Rhythm and Blues and Pop Rock, Salsa and Swing Stage, and a dance floor.

Animal blessings take place both days at 2 p.m., and Italian street chalk art competition at 1500 Stockton St., and Classical Concerts at the National Shrine of St. Francis takes place both days.

The location is Washington Square Park, Upper Grant Ave., and adjacent blocks of North Beach, with some validated parking.

*If you wish to remain anonymous, please say so, but all letters must include your name and address when received by the View.
The Potrero View, 953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107
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TM Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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☐ \$20.00 check enclosed.

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Capitol Update

Budget, Women's Issues Will Keep Legislature Busy Thru August

By Senator John Burton

As summer approaches more and more issues will get resolved as the Senate and Assembly pass bills before we adjourn on August 31. Here are some of the recent highlights from the halls of the Capitol.

Budget: The Senate just restored about \$1 billion in cuts for seniors, poor children and mental health programs that were made in the Governor's revised budget. We will work hard to make sure the restored funds stay in the budget. And we will work with the Assembly, the Governor and the Republicans (whose votes are needed to reach the two-thirds vote requirement to pass a budget) to make sure sufficient revenue is found to balance the scales. Given the size of the deficit and the seismic shift in the state's revenue structure (fueled in large part by the dot com bubble bursting) this state budget will have pain for everyone. But it shouldn't fall disproportionately on those struggling to get by.

Women's Economic Status: A report issued this week underscores the importance of maintaining vital safety net programs. The study was conducted by The Women's Foundation, in conjunction with my office, the California Commission on the Status of Women and other organizations. The report has some disturbing findings.

- 37% of single women in California live below the federal poverty rate. That's significantly above the national statistic of 25%. Older women and women of color are particularly likely to live in poverty.
- 20% of women in California have four or more years of college. A college degree reduces the likelihood of poverty by 80% while a high school diploma reduces the likelihood of poverty by 25%.
- Over 40% of Latinas, 30% of Native American women and 25% of African American women regularly experience "food insecurity." That's a technical term

for the tough times when a mother can't afford to feed her children and eat, so she gives up her food for her kids.

- Without childcare assistance, a woman earning the minimum wage would spend more than half her income on child care. It is unconscionable that women in California who are trying to pull themselves out of poverty are held back by the cost of childcare.

- Housing is a key factor in women's economic insecurity. California renters pay well above the typically recommended 30% of their income on housing. California ranks near the bottom in terms of home ownership and much of the affordable housing that is even available is substandard. These problems were among the factors that led me to introduce SB 1227 which authorized a \$2.1 billion affordable housing bond proposing to expand quality affordable housing.

We can't allow the state's current financial troubles to be used as a way to keep these issues on the back burner. Removing roadblocks that keep women and their families from working and making it in the economy should always be a priority.

Historical Seals: Visitors to the front of the State Capitol will find two distinctive new historical seals alongside the Great Seal of the State of California. I was proud to help dedicate the new seals, approved by legislation in 1998, which depict California Indians and California's Spanish and Mexican eras. The seals were selected by the Commemorative Seals Advisory Committee, which included the State Librarian, San Francisco's Dr. Kevin Starr. Honoring California's history and culture is also the reason behind my legislation (SB 1247) to help ensure that funds approved by voters for historical and cultural preservation are both well spent and fairly spent. SB 1247 has made it through the Senate Committee process and is awaiting action by the full Senate.

In Memorium 1940 - 2002

Arthur Angeli Potrero Hill Native

Arthur Frank Angeli died May 13 at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco after a long illness. He was 62 years old. His wife of 28 years, Stephanie, was at his side at the time of his death.

A native of San Francisco's Potrero Hill, he was a plumber at the San Francisco Water Dept. from 1972 - 2000 and in later years was a foreman known for exceptional skill and precision in measuring water pipes in some of San Francisco's major infrastructure repair projects. Following the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989 he earned the nickname "Marina Art" from co-workers due to his swiftness, accuracy and dedication in measuring water main pipes displaced in the Marina district following the devastating earthquake, which left residents without vital utility services.

Arthur Angeli served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany after he graduated from Polytechnic High School in San Francisco in 1957. He attended Catholic grade school and served as an altar boy at St. Teresas Church in the

Potrero Hill neighborhood. His parents were married in the late 30s at St. Teresas, and reenacted the marriage in the 80s, to celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Angeli was a passionate collector of old automobiles. He renovated and sold them and often took years to complete the finishing touches on an old clunker, eventually turning it into a collector's prized piece.

He is survived by his wife Stephanie of San Francisco, a son Michael of Rogers, Minnesota, two step-daughters, Katy Berbereia of Tulare, Sally Ford of Exeter, a sister, Roberta Howell of San Francisco, and is preceded in death by his parents, Lillian and Hector Angeli, both of San Francisco. He is also survived by aunts Flory Hazel of Millbrae, Lita Muzio of Half Moon Bay, Rose Ferrero of Folsom, Mary Angeli of San Francisco and his mother-in-law, Janet Hobbs Burtnett of Port Orchard, Washington.

Alicia Soberano, Popular Senior Center Host Retires



After hosting the Senior Lunch Program at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House for more than a decade, Alicia Soberano retired from the job recently, and was hosted at a farewell luncheon on May 17 at the Nabe. Seen with husband Eugene, the Nabe and officials from lunch program sponsors Project Open Hand heaped praise, flowers and gifts upon Soberano, who offered thanks amid happy tears. Another longtime program worker Sergia Arreola retired in March from her job as assistant to Soberano because she had to return to her family in the Philippines.

Ruth Passen photo



It's your VIEW . . . and we want to know what YOU think about it!

Please take a moment to answer the following questions, cut out this questionnaire, and mail it to The Potrero View, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco CA 94107.

- How do you receive the View?
- ☐ I only read it occasionally
 - ☐ I pick it up from the same location every month
 - ☐ I look for it at the beginning of the month
 - ☐ I subscribe and receive it in the mail

How many people in your household read the View? _____

- What do you read first?
- ☐ Front page stories
 - ☐ Editorial/letters to the editor
 - ☐ Birthdays
 - ☐ Library news
 - ☐ Cultural news
 - ☐ Quickview/local events
 - ☐ 10 Years Ago
 - ☐ Classified ads

What new features/types of coverage would you like to see in the View?

Comments or suggestions _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
(optional, unless you want to volunteer!)

Do you make a point of patronizing our advertisers? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How do you think the View is produced?
(After you've answered, turn this page upside down to learn the truth!)

- ☐ Paid staff
- ☐ By the Neighborhood House
- ☐ By volunteers from the neighborhood
- ☐ Combination of paid staff and volunteers

How long have you lived and/or worked on the Hill? _____

What other newspapers do you read? _____

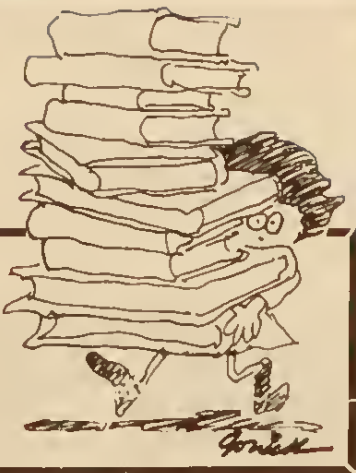
Would you like to volunteer for the View?

- ☐ News reporting
- ☐ Feature writing
- ☐ Layout/Production
- ☐ Working with ads/advertisers
- ☐ Help with delivery

For more than 30 years the Potrero View has been produced by a dedicated crew of volunteers! We are grateful to the Neighborhood House for providing office space and moral support. We are an independent neighborhood newspaper, not affiliated with any other organization.

LIBRARY NEWS
POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. • 695-6640

Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO LIBRARY USERS

Congratulations to Potrero Library staff member **Amelia Martin**, who now has worked for over thirty years as an employee of San Francisco Public Library! Amelia joined SFPL staff in 1972, working in one of the departments at the Main Library. Over the years, she worked at various branch libraries throughout the city and, in 1994, came here to the Potrero Branch. Amelia is much beloved by library users and staff members. **THANK YOU, Amelia**, for your many years of service, and how fortunate we are to have you here with us!

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE

"Reading Road Trip, U.S.A." is the theme for the San Francisco Public Library's 2002 Summer Reading Club, which runs from June 8th through August 10th. All children through age 13 who join the club and participate will receive small incentive prizes for reading, and upon completion of reading for 8 or more hours, will receive a grand prize. Grand prize choices will include books and passes to Bay Area museums and attractions such as the California Academy of Sciences and the Bay Area Discovery Museum. The purpose of the Summer Reading Club is to encourage children to keep reading during the summer. Preschool children also can participate by having someone read to them. Stop by the library for more details!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN JUNE

In conjunction with the Summer Reading Club, Potrero Library will have many special programs for children throughout the summer, thanks to funding from the Friends & Foundation of SFPL:

• "Songs and Music Games From Around the U.S.A. and Beyond," featuring singer Bonnie Lockhart. Thursday, June 13, at 10:30 a.m. For children all ages.

• "Jack and Jill's Adventures with Bridges: An Interactive Rock-It-Science Program," featuring Jay Gluckman. Tuesday, June 18 at 4:00 p.m. For ages 5 and older.

• "Up Close and Personal with the Lizard Lady and Her Menagerie of Reptiles" Saturday, June 29 at 4:00 p.m. For ages 5 and older.

And don't forget, we will have our regular monthly and weekly programs, too:

• Evening films on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

• Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, June 6, 20, and 27 at 10:30 a.m. For infants to 3 years old with an accompanying adult.

• Evening storytime on Tuesdays, June 11, 18, and 25 at 7:00 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

For all of the library's programs: groups, please call in advance for reservations.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

• *A Thousand Country Roads: An Epilogue to the Bridges of Madison County*, by Robert James Waller. Sequel to the 1992 bestseller.

• *Ambling Into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush*, by Frank Bruni. Insightful memoir by *New York Times* correspondent of Bush's 2000 presidential campaign.

• *Everything Is Illuminated*, by Jonathan Safran Foer. Comedy and pathos are braided together with extraordinary skill in a haunting debut novel that depicts a young Jewish American's search for his family's European roots.

• *New Faux Finishes*, by H. John Johnsen. A detailed view of painting techniques, covering paint, supplies, equipment, and surface preparations, with clearly illustrated step-by-step instructions for each technique.

• *A Master Course in Feng Shi*, by Eva Wong. A complete, illustrated, and systematic course for home study in the ancient practice of feng shui.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON ORDER

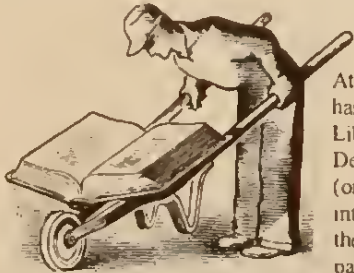
• *The Minpin*, by Roald Dahl

• *Yoko's Paper Cranes*, by Rosemary Wells

• *The Books of Flight: The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum*, by Judith E. Rinard.

Jensa Woo
Potrero Branch Manager

THIRTY YEARS OF THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY



At long last, the fourth bound volume of *The Potrero View* has joined the others on the shelves of the Potrero Branch Library. It contains issues from February 1992 through December 2000, and it's a biggie! You may need a forklift (or a wheelbarrow) to wrestle it to a reading table! It's intriguing to rifle through these tomes and see not only how the Hill has changed over the past thirty years but how the paper has evolved since its first issue in 1970.

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

PETITIONS HELP STOP CLINIC BUDGET CUTS

1500 signatures on petitions and a letter writing campaign helped to reduce further cuts in the budget for the Caleb Clark Potrero Hill Health Center that had been proposed by the administration of Mayor Frank Jordan. The Mayor had asked the Health Department to reduce its budget by up to \$30 million, but after the pressure was applied it appeared that the cuts would be about \$9 million, and that most of these would be in administrative positions and in retirements. Clinic director Dr. Michael Drennan expressed fears that the cuts citywide might come from mental health and substance abuse programs, and Laguna Honda and San Francisco General Hospital.

LIBRARY TO FEEL EFFECTS OF BUDGET CUTBACKS

Widespread opposition to the possibility that branch libraries might be open only two days a week led to a reprieve. The Mayor shrank the cutback demand for the library system from \$1.7 million to \$1 million, but at that level of funding the Potrero Branch would still feel the effects, when floaters would not be available to fill positions that became vacant because of illness or emergency; cutbacks in the Technical Services division would mean delays in getting new books to the branch, and delays and limitations in information services at the branch level.

REMEMBERING ARDEN ARNAUTOFF

Arden Arnautoff died of cancer May 10 at age 62. Arden and her husband, Vas, had lived on Potrero Hill for more than 30 years. For many years she wrote "Ten Years Ago in the View", and was an active member of the staff of the View. Two of her children lived on a kibbutz in Israel, and her son Peter became a San Francisco fireman. Arden and Vas both participated in archeological digs, and Arden served on the advisory board of University Research Expeditions Program. She also traveled widely for her work in the import business. She returned to college at the age of 54, earning a degree in Information Systems Management from USF. She began running in her 40s, and at age 53 came in 21st in the San Francisco Marathon. Arden's concern for people led her to be involved in political efforts — in the Democratic Club, in marches, picket lines, and demonstrations, including the historic demonstration in 1960 when the House Unamerican Activities Committee met at City Hall and Arden was among the many demonstrators to be hosed down the City Hall steps.

GERIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Geriatric programs sponsored by the Division of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Forensic Services, a branch of the Department of Health, provide services that include geriatric crisis and home visiting and day treatment programs. The Southeast/Mission Geriatric Services Clinic, located at 3995 Mission Street, offers support services for residents of the Mission, Excelsior, Bayview/Hunters Point, and Potrero Hill districts.

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO... Health Center faces cuts(!) ... Development of the 23rd and Kansas site, formerly a paint factory and later the home of Synanon, has been delayed by city demands for cleanup of the toxic residues ... In 1982 the burned-out apartment building at Southern Heights and Carolina had already been an eyesore for five years, and despite a petition campaign it was several more years before construction began, only to be mysteriously halted before it was completed ... ABC filmed a Sunday Mass at St. Teresa's Church as part of nationwide coverage of the Nuclear Freeze Initiative ... The Hill's Walter Stack, at age 75, ran his 109th marathon, in Paris.

— Bernie Gershtater

Summer Jobs With Environment Group - The Power Savers

The Power Savers, a program of the San Francisco Dept. of Environment, has a goal to help 4,000 small businesses in San Francisco reduce electricity use by six megawatts, enough to power 4,500 homes. This project will contribute to clean air, clean water and brighter neighborhoods.

As part of a team of dedicated and energetic people who will visit every neighborhood in the city, talk to every small business in the neighborhoods, and gather information to choose businesses that qualify for the program, volunteers will work with teammates to visit and walk through selected neighborhoods and business districts in the city to present the Power Savers lighting retrofit program for energy efficiency to business owners and managers.

The volunteers' job will be to explain the fundamentals of the program to the decision maker whenever possible, answer questions, gather basic information on each business, and get a copy of the electric bill to qualify the business for the program.

The volunteer will make certain that the information gathered is usable for marketing purposes once gathered. It must be legible, complete and accurate.

The Dept. of the Environment Power Savers' staff will provide training on the basics of lighting retrofits, as well as any materials needed.

This position reports to the Power Savers Summer Outreach Manager. Qualifications for the job are:

- Minimum high school graduate;
- A true belief in the value of energy conservation;
- Understanding and appreciation for the diversity of people in the city;
- Detail oriented;
- A sincere enjoyment for talking to a variety of people;
- A very energetic nature;
- Legible handwriting;
- Self-motivated and quick-learning;
- Basic computer skills, Excel knowledge preferred.

The salary is \$9 - 11 per hour based on experience to start; performance bonuses; a \$35 MUNI Fast Pass; 25 hours weekly, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Duration of position: June 2002 - August 2002.

Fax resume to Peter O'Donnell at 355-3750, or e-mail to: sfpowersavers@sfgov.org

—Mike Thomas

Christopher's Books

An independently owned neighborhood bookstore on Potrero Hill

1400 18th Street
Open everyday 10-10
415.255.8802

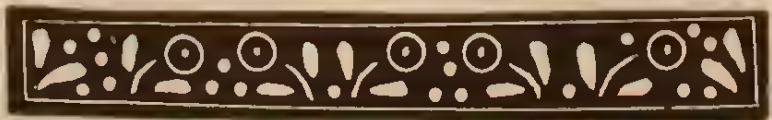
email: chrisbks@earthlink.net

MUNI Tix at Nabe

MUNI tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro, Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm

Senior MUNI: \$8.00
Youth MUNI: \$8.00

For more info, call 826-8080



You CAN Visit Cuba — Bring Dollars and an Open Mind

(Continued from Page 1)

buildings in the neighborhood we were staying in were being fumigated during our stay.

During and after the revolution of 1959, many people of wealth fled the country, leaving their homes to their servants. We stayed in one of these homes (built in 1946), called FMC House, which is home to the *Federacion de Mujeres Cubanas* (Women's Federation of Cuba), an organization dedicated to addressing the problems and needs of Cuba's women.

Our group was a mix of both women and men, so staying at FMC house was akin to staying in a youth hostel. The money we paid for our accommodations (including two meals a day) went into FMC's general fund, which is used to help cover the cost of the services it provides its members. Julia Aranda Guerra, the manager of FMC House, proudly told us that 85 percent of Cuban women belong to the federation.

There is a statue of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg near FMC House, but no one could tell us how it got there. Nobody seemed to know. And we could find out nothing about the statue of one Jorge Dimitrov (1902-1949) which stands on an otherwise empty lot next to our temporary "home."

...

The workings of collective farms and the emphasis on education and health made a big impression on me. The issue of illiteracy has been addressed since the end of the revolution, and the year 2001 marked the 40th anniversary of Cuba's phenomenally successful literacy campaign in which the country's grave illiteracy rate was reduced to below 4 percent in a single year. Today the literacy rate is 98 percent.

The government considers environmental and urban issues most prominent in the life of its people. The problem of water pollution is being addressed, and reforestation is taking place throughout the country.

There is a sincere move to raise the consciousness of the people about nutrition and the importance of vegetables in their daily diets. We learned that chamomile, an herb, is one of the most widely grown plants in Cuba due to its medicinal properties. Farmers receive aid from the government on the most efficient and productive ways to raise their crops.

At one farm we visited, we crowded into a very small house for a Q & A with the farmers. They served us coffee (in the espresso size cups that seem to be the standard for serving coffee in Cuba).

The country's collective farms grow organic vegetables and fruits, medicinal plants, some tobacco, and more. On our last full day in Cuba we visited a huge collective farm, very close to downtown Havana, where we were treated to a lunch of foods freshly picked that day. The section of the farm we visited had been a part of a major dumping ground for industrial debris until it was cleaned up and became part of a neighboring, and very successful, collective farm.

...

Our tour bus took us through much of Havana and through many miles of countryside near the city. I was personally delighted that there are no commercial billboards anywhere.

The only posted signs are the sayings of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro.

One day we took a three-hour ride to the Pinar del Rio/Vinales area. Once a coffee-producing area, it has been transformed into a national forest, with over 8,000 new plants from all over the world (except the U.S.). On a two-mile hike up the mountain our guides gave us a botany lesson on each and every plant. Later we visited a small, self-contained village where the forestry workers and their families live. The children are being taught everything about forestry, so that they will step into the shoes of their parents one day.

...

A couple of us attended the *Ballet Nacional de Cuba*, where legendary ballerina Alicia Alonso has been the General Director for many years. Now in her 90s, she was in the audience of the performance we saw, and graciously greeted the audience with a few bows from her box seat.

We met with Cuban Hip Hop Rappers; toured the studios of Radio Havana Cuba; and visited popular musician Dulce Maria and her salsa group at her home in a section of old Havana that reminded me of long-ago North Beach. Salsa dancing in the close quarters of her living room, and on the rooftop (in a light rain) was the highlight of that evening.

Several of us took the ferry from Havana to a pleasant suburb of cobblestone streets, where the only touristy place to see was an old church. After lunch we returned to the waterfront to wait for the ferry back to Havana. Oh, those ferries! First, we had to wait in line to get on board — people on foot standing on either side of people on bicycles. We were impressed with the courtesy of the people in line: no shoving, no pushing, no shouting. Once we moved onto the ferry (a stand-up all the way for the 15 minute ride), we were gently nudged to a space in front of an open window (it was paneless) by a kind elderly man, who smiled and spoke to us in Spanish. We answered in English with a modest *gracias* from time to time.

...

Cuban farmers, scientists, environmentalists, and health practitioners receive help from many countries around the globe (although not from the United States, of course). And, they are also invited to other countries to speak about their growth, and to teach others what they've learned. We spoke to engineers who are beginning to use solar power much the same as we are in America, and who are learning how to protect the environment with renewable sources of energy.

...

I was uncertain about traveling in a group of strangers, all them younger than me, but it turned out to be a treat. We shared information, ideas, references, and experiences very easily. And since our return, have met to reminisce about our trip and pass around photographs.

After I interviewed the ISA students who went to Cuba a month after I did (see story this page) I regretted not having the opportunity to talk to young Cubans, as they did. And I would very much like to hear what Cuban people have to say about President Carter's recent trip there, and about the recent visits of other prominent Americans. I may have to plan another trip.



Cuban schoolkids were eager to answer ISA students' questions in an area outside of their schoolroom.

Trip to Cuba Surprises Local Youth: Cuban Kids Love School!

Sixteen Potrero Hill high school students returned from a trip to Cuba amazed: "Those kids *love* going to school!" they exclaimed.

"We saw all the kids raise their hands to give answers to a teacher's questions," said Pablo Davila, "you don't see that here."

The teenagers, 13 boys and three girls, students at the International Studies Academy (ISA), 693 Vermont St., together with four parent/teacher supervisors, went to Cuba in March and spent much of their ten days there visiting schools in Havana and meeting kids their own age.

"In Cuba," Octavio Ocon, the student group leader, told the View, "they value their education. I was impressed!" Another student added, "Kids here don't even want to be in school."

"Kids there want to BE something. At our age they already know that they want to be doctors for instance," said Bret Stemm. "What a concept!" remarked Bret, when the group was told that all education in Cuba is offered free of charge, including college, graduate, and post-graduate work.

ISA is a small public college-prep high school that promotes international education and the study of languages. The purpose of ISA is to cultivate in young people an international perspective and to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to live in a world of limited natural resources and characterized by cultural pluralism and interdependence. Through ISA's International Expedition Program, students have traveled to Costa Rica, Italy, France, and to Japan where ISA has a sister school.

Sebastiana Pastor, a cultural anthropologist who has taught art at ISA for 8 years, was the faculty coordinator of the Cuba expedition. She told the View that the funds for the trip were raised by the students themselves, and that the San Francisco Unified School District did not contribute to the funding but gave its approval to the undertaking.

Why Cuba? The trip was envisioned as an opportunity for ISA students to extend their

studies to a neighboring country that has been involved in major transformations since the revolution of 1959, which brought Fidel Castro to power and introduced a socialist system of government.

One of the most significant of these transformations was the elimination of illiteracy, which at the time of the Revolution stood at about 25 percent. In 1960, Fidel Castro's government introduced an all-out national campaign that within one year brought literacy to one million people, and today the population is close to 100 percent literate. The UNESCO review of the campaign reported it as one of the most important events in the history of education.

The ISA students also visited local farms, and attended seminars where guest speakers answered their questions about politics and social issues.

"In Cuba," said an ISAer, "they laugh at our racial profiling. And their neighborhoods are not like ours — we didn't see homeless, and no beggars on the street. And the people seem more open in Cuba — they really show feeling toward other people. They hug you, and give you a kiss on the cheek."

In a discussion about the U.S.-imposed embargo, one student remarked that, "just for traveling to another country we are punished. I'd like the opportunity to visit again, as well as other countries. But I'm too spoiled . . . there are too many items you can't get there. They haven't got what we have."

The trip was a revelation for all the ISA students. Bret, a senior graduating in June, plans to return to Cuba in July. He told the View that he will be volunteering to help organize a hip hop event. "I made a lot of connections there, and I can plan my own agenda."

One youth was so inspired by what he saw in the Havana schools — "It made me look at everything different . . . it kinda did" — that he's decided to continue on with his own schooling.

— Ruth Passen



ISA students, parents, teachers and friends took a break from visiting classrooms for a photo opportunity. Sebastiana Pastor photos

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“The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco.” — (Not) by Mark Twain



So, it Mark Twain didn't say, "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco," who did? Literary sleuths and Twainologists by the score have scoured the writings, correspondence, speeches, and interviews of Twain and have yet to stumble upon the famous observation that delights weather-proud San Franciscans and causes shivering tourists to mumble through the clattering of teeth: "Now they tell us."

A bit of time scrolling through the Google search engine turned up two candidates: John Muir and W.C. Fields, and some serious Googling could fetch others. (And by-the-by,

for those who cite Herb Caen as their source. While the sainted one cited the already-famous — infamous? — observation in a 1984 column, he followed it with, "was one of the best lines Mark Twain never wrote, but who cares. Whoever said it was accurate enough."

However, Twain DID have some things to say about the meteorological conditions hereabouts, circa 1864-1867, that are verifiable. Here's an excerpt from Chapter LVI of *Roughing It*, originally published in 1872, a chronicle of his early years in the Wild West and beyond.

— Abigail Johnston

City of San Francisco: Its Climate and Seasons By Mark Twain

San Francisco, a truly fascinating city to live in, is stately and handsome at a fair distance, but close at hand one notes that the architecture is mostly old-fashioned, many streets are made up of decaying, smoke-grimed, wooden houses, and the barren sand hills toward the outskirts obtrude themselves too prominently. Even the kindly climate is sometimes pleasanter when read about than personally experienced, for a lovely, cloudless sky wears out its welcome by and by, and then when the longed-for rain does come it *stays*. Even the playful earthquake is better contemplated from a distance—

However, there are varying opinions about that.

The climate of San Francisco is mild and singularly equable. The thermometer stands at about seventy degrees the year round. It hardly changes at all. You sleep under one or two light blankets summer and winter, and never use a mosquito bar. Nobody ever wears summer clothing. You wear black broadcloth — if you have it — in August and January, just the same. It is no colder and no warmer, in the one month than the other. You do not use overcoats and you do not use fans. It is as pleasant a climate as could well be contrived,

take it all around, and is doubtless the most unvarying in the whole world. The wind blows there a good deal in the summer months, but then you can go over to Oakland, if you choose — three or four miles away — it does not blow there. It has only snowed twice in San Francisco in nineteen years, and then it only remained on the ground long enough to astonish the children and set them to wondering what the feathery stuff was.

During eight months of the year, straight along, the skies are bright and cloudless, and never a drop of rain falls. But when the other four months come along, you will need to go and steal an umbrella. Because you will require it. Not just one day, but one hundred and twenty days in hardly varying succession. When you want to go visiting, or attend church, or the theater, you never look up at the clouds to see if it is likely to rain or not — you look at the almanac. If it is winter, it will

rain — and if it is summer, it *won't* rain, and you cannot help it. You never need a lightning rod, because it never thunders and it never lightens. And after you've listened for six or eight weeks, every night, to the dismal monotony of those quiet rains, you will wish in your heart the thunder *would* leap and crash and roar along those drowsy skies once, and make everything alive — you will wish the prisoned lightnings *would* cleave the dull firmament asunder and light it with a blinding glare for one little instant. You would give *anything* to hear the old familiar thunder again and see the lightning strike somebody. And along in the summer, when you have suffered about four months of lustrous, pitiless sunshine, you are ready to go down on your knees and plead for rain — hail — snow — thunder and lightning — anything to break the monotony — you will take an earthquake, if you cannot do any better. And the chances are you'll get it, too.



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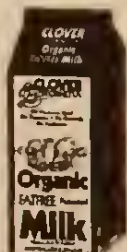
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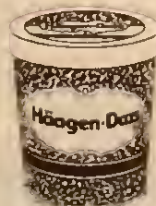
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**SF COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER:**

* Pursuit of Excellence Chamber Music Recital, featuring exceptional graduating seniors at the music center. The program will include works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Brahms and Debussy. **Sunday, June 2**, at 2:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. Admission is free.

*Free concert **Saturday, June 15**, 8 p.m., at the Mission Dolores Basilica, the CMC Orchestra in Mahler's *Symphony No. 5*, and Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 25*.

*Free concert and reception, *Baroque and Beyond*, featuring medieval, renaissance and Baroque music, including Handel, Bach, Gabrielli and Vivaldi, followed by Arabic and Israeli folk music in a salute to peace, **Sunday, June 16**, 4 p.m.

JOIN SENIORS IN THE FIGHT

AGAINST HUNGER at the San Francisco Food Bank, 900 Pennsylvania Ave., on **June 6 and June 13**, from 10 a.m. to noon, by helping to assemble. Stock, repack and label boxes of food. No heavy lifting required. RSVP at 731-3335.

ABD PRODUCTIONS presents *Tears of Rock*, an evening of dance for Palestinian and Israeli Peace, **Fridays, June 7 and 14, Saturdays, June 8 and 15**, at 8 p.m., and **Sunday, June 9**, at 6 p.m., at the Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street, at Mission. Tickets are \$18, or \$16 in advance. Advance tickets can be bought at Modern Times Bookstore. Jewish and Arab artists have worked together for a year and a half to create this passionate work.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE'S ARTIST IN EDUCATION PROGRAM presents *Bridging Youth Voices*, an exhibition of photography by students from Cole School and McClymonds High School. A reception will be held **Friday, June 7**, 2:30 to 4 p.m., at the Cole School, 1101 Union Street at 10th Street in Oakland. Admission is free. For more information call 863-2141.

DR. QUENTIN YOUNG, National Coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Plan and past president of the American Public Health Association, will speak on *Single Payer National Health Insurance: the only cure to corporate medicine*, on **Sunday, June 9**, at 3 p.m., at 626 Pacheco, near 10th Avenue. The event is free. For more information call Health Care For All, 695-7891.

PREVENT BLINDNESS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. Free vision screening for glaucoma and other vision problems will take place on **Tuesday, June 11**, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., at 4200 California Street, Suite 117. The screening takes only ten or fifteen minutes and could save your sight. Appointments are necessary. Call 387-0934 for appointment.

THE SF HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents Daniel Alef, author of the award-winning novel, *Pale Truth*, speaking on the unique challenge of writing historical fiction. The book will be available for sale and signing, **Tuesday, June 11**, at 7:30 p.m., at the UCSF Laurel Heights Campus, 3333 California Street. Call 775-1111 for more information.

SLUG PROGRAMS IN JUNE:

* *Urban Gardening Internship*, beginning **Saturday, June 15**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This ten-week internship meets at the Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton, Saturdays through August 17. Topics include Green Gardening, Propagation, and Pruning. A \$50 materials fee is requested. Scholarships are available. **Applications are due June 7.** Call 285-7584 for application and information.

* *Urban Composting* at Potrero del Sol Community Garden, **Saturday, June 15**, 10 a.m. to noon. Workshops are offered in Spanish and English. Potrero Ave. at Cesar Chavez, at the south end of Knudsen-Bloom Park. Free! Call 285-7584 for more information.

THE BAY AREA VIDEO COALITION has announced a call for entries for the tenth biennial James D. Phelan Art Award in Video. \$7500 will be awarded to a video artist who was born in California and whose body of work merits recognition for its creativity and contribution to the field of video. **Applications will be accepted beginning June 15.** Entry forms must be postmarked not later than July 15. Final selections will be made by September 15. For application forms or for more information call Caiti Crum at 558-2154.

STERN GROVE FESTIVAL announces the 65th anniversary season of free summer concerts, **every Sunday from June 16 through August 18.** The series features singer/songwriter Michelle Shocked, southern hip-hop group Arrested Development, South Africa's Mahotella Queens, Colombia's Toto La Momposina's Afro-Cuban group Yerba Buena, Hawaiian singer and hula master Keali'i Reichel, jazz pianist Kenny Barron and Canta Brasil, Simon Shaheen and Quantara, Afro-Chicano group Quetzal, the Rennie Harris Puremovement dance group, Island Riddim Band with Hula Halu 'O Ku'uleilani, a world premiere of *The Wolf and Peter* with the Russian National Orchestra and members of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Ballet, and San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program. For more information call 252-6252, or visit the website, www.sterngrove.org.

INVESTIGATIVE BBC JOURNALIST TO SPEAK AT MISSION HIGH. Greg Palast, author of the bestseller *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, exposes the truth about globalization, corporate cons, and high finance. Defined as the "type of investigative reporter you don't see anymore — a cross between Sam Spade and Sherlock Holmes." He will one of the speakers at an event **Sunday, June 16** at 7 p.m. at Mission High School, 18th and Dolores. \$12 tickets at the door. Proceeds to benefit Media Alliance and Friends of Free Speech Radio.

WE'RE AN AMERICAN BAND- The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band celebrates its 25th anniversary with a program on American themes in music, from Broadway marches to Billy the Kid's Wild West to the Native American Diaspora to American dance and march classics. *We're an American band* is performed **Tuesday, June 18**, at 8:15 p.m., at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1658 Clipper, at Sanchez. Admission is free.

TAKE YOUR DOG TO WORK DAY! San Francisco SPCA urges employers to adopt a pet-friendly attitude and encourage their employees to bring their dogs to work on **Friday, June 21.** For more information call 733-9300 or 554-3000.

THE SAN FRANCISCO ROSE SOCIETY will conduct a workshop with an emphasis on the use of organic methods to maintain healthy, beautiful roses, **Saturday, June 22** at 11 a.m., at Potrero Gardens, 1201 17th Street. For information call 861-8220.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL is sponsoring a free community health class, on **Saturday, June 22**, from 11 a.m. to noon, at 3555 Cesar Chavez Street. The Topic is *Cholesterol and Your Heart*. The speaker is Dr. Edward Kersh. Call 641-6465 to register.

SF HISTORY ASSOCIATION will present a slide show *The Coastal Defenses of San Francisco, Fort Funston and Alcatraz Island* on **Thursday, June 22.** The show will be presented by Jayeson Vance, who has worked a park Ranger and a permanent staff member of Alcatraz Island, at the Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church Streets. Doors open at 7 p.m. with refreshments, while the meeting begins at 8 p.m. There is a \$5 admission for non-members of the Association. Call 750-9986 for more information.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CHALLENGE WALK through SOMA, North Beach and the Marina, to raise funds and increase consciousness of MS on **Sunday, June 23.** Volunteers are needed: athletic trainers, registration volunteers, route markers, course marshals, massage therapists, trucking volunteers motorcycle escorts, photographers, and sign language interpreters. For more information call 1-800 FIGHT MS.

LEGAL COMMUNITY AGAINST VIOLENCE (LCAV) announces its annual fundraising dinner which will take place **Friday, June 28**, at the Westin Saint Francis Hotel on Union Square. LCAV was founded in 1993 in response to the assault weapons massacre at 101 California Street. The keynote speaker and honoree will be writer and director, Michael Moore, the creator of *Rage and Me* and the author of the best seller, *Stupid White Men . . . and Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation*. Also honored will be former Los Angeles City Council Member, Mike Feuer. A reception and silent auction begins at 6 p.m., while dinner is at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$175, and \$95 for nonprofit and government employees. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 433-2062.

WALK AND ROLL 2002, a fun wheel-or-walk event to raise money and awareness for support of families of children with disabilities. Walk and Roll encourages people of all ages on bicycles, in wheel chairs, families of children in strollers, kids on rollerblades, anyone who just wants to walk the course to come out, at 8 a.m. **Sunday, June 30**, at the Bandstand in Golden Gate Park. There will be facepainting, prizes, clowns, food, music and fun. Contact Audrey at 282-7494.

FREE COUNSELING FOR SENIORS, who often face isolation, loss, depression, illness and other challenges in their day-to-day life. *Senior Peer Counseling* trains volunteers over 55 to assist fellow seniors through emotional support, problem solving, and compassionate listening. All services are voluntary and free of charge. For information of referral, call Family Service Agency at 474-7310 and ask for Nancy Alpert, LCSW.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY sponsors self-help groups for people with MS and their loved ones. The groups meet regularly for emotional support and educational purposes. The Bayview-Hunters point group meets the third Saturday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the MLK, Jr. Swimming Pool. For information call Gayle at 642-1961.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL seeks bilingual volunteers to assist patients and visitors at the information desk. Volunteers are needed for a variety of shifts on weekdays, late afternoons, evenings and weekends. They are asked to commit to a minimum of four hours per week. Benefits include free parking and half price meals. Call Grace D'Anca at 641-6490.

CITY HALL COMPLIMENTARY DOCENT TOURS, meet at the Docent Tour Kiosk, on the Van Ness side of the building. Tours are 45 minutes to one hour. Tuesdays through Fridays, at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.



Denise Kessler was named Patient of the Month for the month of May by the University of Pacific Dental School. Her picture was taken and will be hanging in waiting room ("where everyone reads the View") through June AND she gets \$200 off her bill! . . . Several months ago the Chron reprinted a dispatch out of Fort Lauderdale, detailing the tale of Tillie Tooter who, trapped in her Toyota Tercel, had been rescued from a tangle of trees by a teen. (The Tattler likes all those "t"s") . . . Former Hill resident and Managing Editor of the Chronicle Jerry Roberts is now Executive Editor of the Santa Barbara News-Press, but he's holding on to his Giants tix, say Matier and Ross. (We've sent Jerry a collection of clippings culled from the Chron containing some interesting typos which surely wouldn't have happened under his watch.) . . . Christina Pavloff is still considered an employee by the folks at Good Life even though she is in Siena, Italy, studying Italian, of all things . . . We were saddened to learn of the death of Chez Papa's young chef Randall Brown. He suffered a heart attack on night of the bistro's grand opening and died several days later. Our condolences to his family and friends . . . Good news! John Super is recovering from his medical woes and we hope that his column *Baat Stuff* will be back soon . . . We hear that the Bay Guardian has bought a building on Mariposa near Mississippi. Hmmm, encroaching on our territory now, are they? . . . Several well manicured fingers belonging to Rita Giglio were in the foreground of a large photo in the Chron recently . . . Please, dear faithful readers, send your tidbits, rumors, queries, speculations etcetera to wtattler@potreroview.net.

Mime Troupe Annual Antics Begin July 4

The world-renowned San Francisco Mime Troupe unfolds its 41st Summer Season with "Mr. Smith Goes to Obskuristan," an original political musical satire driven by the events of September 11 and their aftermath. The Mime Troupe play will be performed in indoor venues across northern California and free in Bay Area parks from July 4 through Labor Day. Written by Josh Kornbluth, author and star of "Red Diaper Baby," the play examines how quickly democratic ideals are discarded when there is money involved. The world premiere is 2 p.m. Thursday, July 4 at Dolores Park in San Francisco. Live jazz starts at 1:30.

Additional performance dates for Mr. Smith Goes to Obskuristan in S.F. are: July 6 and 7, and September 1 and 2 at Dolores Park; July 27 at Glen Park; July 28 at Yerba Buena Gardens; August 18 at Washington Square Park; and August 31 at Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park.

Josh Kornbluth, theatrical monologist and filmmaker, has dreamed of running away to join the Mime Troupe since 1972 when his father took him to see "Dragon Lady's Revenge," in New York City during Nixon's "Christmas Bombing"

of Vietnam. Says Josh of that long ago performance of the Mime Troupe. "The tortured topics of Vietnam and the drug trade were not just brought vividly to life, but were dramatized in comedy and song, tremendous goofiness delivered with exquisite craft." Josh brings his narrative voice to a full complement of colorful characters and a Mime Troupe style plot.

In the play the President of the United States has a problem: his well-earned reputation of using the War on Terrorism to advance corporate interests is getting in the way of his actual foreign policy — advancing corporate interests! The Administration needs to convince the world that it puts democracy before profits, and it needs an unimportant place to use as an example. So, when the President-For-Life of the tiny country of Obskuristan announces first time ever elections, the U.S. sends 9/11 fireman hero Luke Smith as its official advisor. Smith, a true believer in America as a beacon of freedom in a dark world, vows to help Obskuristan achieve American-style democracy. But when oil is discovered and an Obskuristan presidential candidate promises to keep the oil wealth at home, priorities change.

Will the President-For-Life keep his pledge to have elections? Or will the War on Terrorism be used to enforce the status quo? Will the oilmen in Washington cynically endorse democracy over profit for public relations? Or has their hero Mr. Smith become an obstacle to an even greater plan? And what, exactly, is "American Style" democracy?

Never a company to shy away from tackling large political questions, the San Francisco Mime Troupe has been producing socially relevant musical theater since 1959, a testament to the Troupe's broad constituency and its ability to speak their thoughts. The Troupe's emphasis has remained on the ensemble not the ego, on multiculturalism, equal wages, mentoring, and theater of the highest quality.

The San Francisco Mime Troupe won its first OBIE Award in 1968 for "uniting theater and revolution and grooving in the parks." Since then, two more OBIE's, the coveted Tony Award (for excellence in regional theater), the Bay Area Media Alliance's Golden Gadget Award for Lifetime Achievement, and numerous Bay Area Theater Critics' Circle Awards have been added to the list of the company's many honors.

Music for "Mr. Smith" is written by Jason Sherbundy and lyrics by Bruce Barthol. Michael Sullivan and Keiko Shimosato co-direct the Mime Troupe ensemble of actors including Velina Brown, Michael Correiro, Ed Holmes, Keiko Shimosato, Michael Sullivan and Victor Toman.


Performances of the San Francisco Mime Troupe are made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the city of San Francisco Grants for the Arts, the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Fund, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the W. A. Gerbode Foundation.

Visual Arts Winners Show Their Stuff

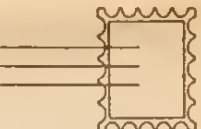
New Langton Arts presents Midori Harimo, Scott Hewicker, and John Slepian the 2002 Bay Area Award Show awardees in visual arts. The three local artists offer vistas of fantastic new worlds. Part utopian, part escapist, and perpetually slipping away, the places and notions they've developed are momentary glimpses into worlds far from our own, be they the paper sculptures stoged by Midori Harima, the color-saturated landscapes of Scott Hewicker, or the uncannily lifelike digital creations of John Slepian.

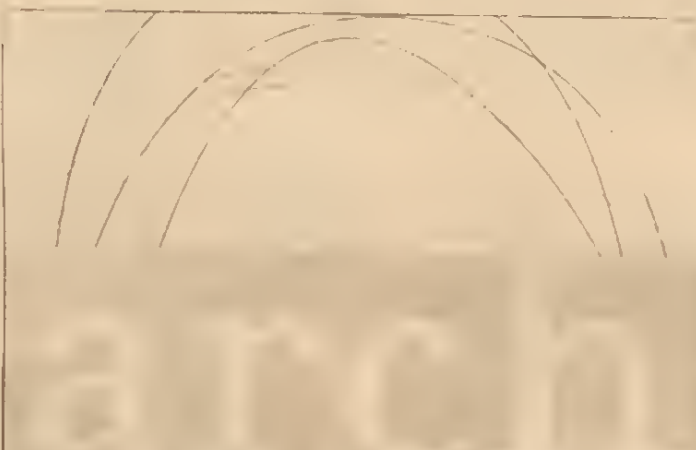
New Langton Arts is located at 1246 Folsom St. between 8th and 9th Streets. Gallery hours are 12-5 pm Wednesday through Saturday and Tuesdays by appointment. Admission is free. Call 626-5416 for info. The opening reception is June 27, 6-8 p.m. The show then continues through July 27.


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Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is wheelchair accessible. If you should need the services of a certified American Sign Language Interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or a meeting in an alternative format, please call (415) 826-8080 at least one week prior to event. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving the most needy of the community with an emphasis on youth and education.

ODC Theater Presents Unique Dance Series

Visual designer Matthew Antaky, in close collaboration with four companies, Liss Fain Dance, Huckabay McAllister Dance, Kunst-Stoff, and Stephen Pelton Dance Theater, present *Frames of Light*, the first presentation of *ArtRisks*, a unique dance series at the ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell), from June 6-8 at 8 p.m. In this performance, light dramatically structures the perception of the choreography and becomes an incisive sculptural and architectural element that is intrinsic to the understanding of the piece. Liss Fain designed this series to encourage experimentation between artists and to elicit audience feedback. Each performance will be followed with a brief lighting discussion for the audience to ask questions and to learn how the choreographers came to use the light they did. Parts two and three of *ArtRisks* will follow in October. Tickets, \$17. For more info, call the ODC Box Office, 415-863-9384, or log onto Ticket Web at www.ticketweb.com or go to Tix Bay Area in Union Square for half price tickets.



Jack Walsh

Andy Moore photo

PBS Premiere of Hope Along the Wind

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) and KQED present Eric Slade's *Hope Along the Wind*, *The Life of Harry Hay* on KQED, Channel 9, on June 28, at 9 p.m.

Political activist Harry Hay started America's first successful gay rights organization, the Mattachine Society, in the midst of America's most conservative era, as Joseph McCarthy rabidly interrogated suspected Communists and deviants. Featuring interviews with surviving members of the Mattachine Society, dramatic archival film and photos, and evocative stylized imagery, *Hope Along the Wind* tells the powerful story of Hay's work, which laid the foundation for the modern U.S. lesbian and gay rights movement. Hay, currently a resident of San Francisco, celebrated his 90th birthday on April 7.

Produced by Hill resident and filmmaker Jack Walsh, the feature length documentary follows the founding of the group, the dramatic court trial that put the Mattachine Society in the spotlight and the group's politically charged breakup. The film continues with Hay's life to the present, including his co-founding of The Radical Faeries, counter culture gay people who explore a spiritual dimension of their sexuality and his participation in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day parade as a marshal.

Hope Along the Wind also traces Hay's roots in the Communist Party and Labor Movement, where he learned the organizing skills he need to bring together "America's most hated minority." In the end the film is an inspiring chronicle of an activist who refused to quit, and as a result, founded one of the most dynamic movements in modern American history.

Performing Arts Roundup

By Julia Segrove



Circus Proboscis: A sneeze of Freaks, 5/31; 6/7; 6/8; 6/15. Solomon Landeman, Andrea Hart, Jessica Bevkemeier, Jeff Wigner and Karen Penley. (415) 662-6826. David Jondo photo

Kate's Chink-O-Rama at Brava Theater Center

Brava! for Women in the Arts, in association with the National Queer Arts Festival, presents the California premiere of *Kate's Chink-O-Rama* starring comedy sensation Kate Rigg with David Jung as MC Chink Daddy and featuring the Chink-O-Rama Dancers at the Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (at York), from June 5-16.

Direct from standing-room-only crowds at Joe's Pub in NYC, LA and Toronto, Kate Rigg comes to the Brava Theater Center for 10 performances only in *Kate's Chink-O-Rama - Funky Urban Comedy with Plenty of Flava!* Presented in a cultural-activist style, this hilarious send-up of Asian stereotypes features Nike sweat shop workers, Vietnamese war brides, camera-toting Japanese tourists and every other lotus blossom, kung-fu kicking Susie Wong cultural stereotype floating in the cultural ether. Combining "I Will Survive" and "Miss Saigon" with a rap rhythm, Rigg presents a panoply of characters such as the Lesbian Librarian and Puerto Rican Welfare Mother offering the kind of theater that equally offends along the cross-cultural board.

Kate Riggs, a graduate of The Julliard School, has performed at the Montreal and Toyota Comedy Festivals and was named one of the top ten comedy acts in NYC by Backstage Magazine 2001. Born to an Indonesian mother and an Australian father, Kate says: "The word Chink is just a word. Words are not people, people are people. Nobody can take that word and make it toxic. It takes power away from a person who would use it in a negative way, cause I said it first Honey!" Come see why all the roundeyes are freaking out! Performances at 8 p.m. Tickets, \$24 general, \$22 students & seniors. Tickets available online at www.brava.org or call BRAVA Box Office at 647-2822.



Circus Proboscis Comes to Potrero Hill

Karen Penley's presents a circus-themed dance/theater show, *Circus Proboscis: A Sneeze of Freaks*, at Goat Hall, 400 Missouri (at 19th), from June 7-15. In Penley's delightful and disturbing performance piece, *Circus Proboscis* — a plethora of weirdly familiar oddballs and rascals — talk, dance, mumble, twirl, sing, rollerskate, throw string beans and jubilantly demonstrate what it means to be human. It's a funhouse of a show, full of daring feats of wordplay, mood swings on the high wire, and over the (big) top performances. Shows at 8 p.m. Tickets, \$12-15/sliding scale. For more info, call 662-6826 or go to kpenley@earthlink.net.



Queer Youth Filmmakers Tour Bay Area Schools

Lesbian teenage filmmakers Rachel Bolden-Kramer and Theresa Hernandez are currently touring schools throughout the SF Bay Area to show their documentary *Queer Geographies: Mapping Our Identities*, a peer education film dealing with issues related to queer youth, such as homophobia and coming out. Mission High School students Bolden-Kramer and Hernandez are making visits to over a dozen sites, in locations ranging from Palo Alto to Corte Madera, and from Oakland to San Francisco. "We wanted to make a statement about our school environment and how no one really wants to talk about queer people, homophobia and heterosexism," says Bolden-Kramer, who heads off to Harvard University in the fall. The *Queer Geographies: Mapping Our Identities* tour is presented by Frameline Distribution, a non-profit arts organization devoted to the presentation of queer films and videos in communities across the country. For more info about the film and Frameline, contact Corey Eubanks at 640-1995 or visit www.frameline.org.

SAN Presents The Gray Cabaret at Victoria Theater

Senior Action Network (SAN) presents its 9th Annual Senior talent show, the *Gray Cabaret* at the Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St (near Mission St.), on June 13, at 2 p.m. An exciting variety of seniors perform dance, song, musical instruments, poetry and other surprises. Tickets, \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the Senior Action Network's office, 965 Mission St., Suite 705, or purchased on the day of the event. For more info, call 546-1333.



Summer Dance Festival Comes to Dance Mission Theater & The Marsh

The Dancers' Group presents the return of the West Coast's premiere dance festival, the *Summer Dance Festival* at the Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.) and The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. (between 22nd-23rd Sts.), from June 17-July 26. Celebrating the work of local all stars and stellar out-of-town guests, the *Festival* boasts six weeks of workshops, three weekends of performances, special events, and panel discussions. A vital celebration of Bay Area dance, the *Summer Dance Festival* has grown over the past 17 years to become the West Coast's primary gathering place for dance students and audiences alike to share in the exploration, invention, and risk-taking of dance artists from the Bay Area and beyond.

Workshops include Action Theater, Aerial Dance, Alexander Technique, Ballet, Body Mind Centering, Butoh, Feldenkrais, Hip Hop, Yoga and many other intensive workshops in diverse dance disciplines. Local all stars and out-of-town guests include Angus Balbernie (Scotland), Anna Halprin, Asako Takami (Indian Odissi), Augusta Moore (formerly with SF Ballet), Jo Kreiter (Flyaway Productions), Joe Goode Performance Group, Keith Hennessy (Circo Zero), Kim Epifano, Ruth Zaporah and Sara Shelton Mann (Contra-band), Sri Louise and Shinichi Momo Koga (Inkboat).

Festival faculty will perform on three weekends, including local icons and international guests. Special events include panel discussions on Somatics and Dance and Contemporary Meets Traditional, with a Slumber Party/Dance Fringe Film Festival showcasing short contemporary dance films made by local artists. In addition, student showings will be held at the end of Jo Kreiter's Off-the-Ground-Dances and Micaya's Hip Hop workshops in which Festival participants will perform work made during the week's intensive workshops. For a full *Summer Dance Festival* brochure, including detailed workshop information, call Dancers' Group at 920-9181 or visit www.dancersgroup.org

Identity Theft: The Crime of the 21st Century

By Inspector Joe Engler, SFPD

The most disturbing aspect of being a victim of identity theft is that by the time one finds out that there is a problem, much of the damage has already been done. Perhaps you have been refused use of a credit card due to exceeding your credit limit. Maybe you have received a monthly bill from a cellular telephone company for an account that you never opened.

There may be withdrawals from your bank debit card for which you have no personal record. A police officer may be knocking on your door to advise you that a license plate registered to you was used in a crime.

In all of these cases, some form of identity theft may have occurred. As a victim of identity theft, an aggressive and immediate response is necessary in order to mitigate and correct the damage to your criminal, credit and driving histories.

Special attention to Potrero Hill

Do not allow or tolerate "dumpster diving" in the trash cans and recycling bins placed in front of your homes. There have been two reported incidents in the past month on Potrero Hill where uninhabited homes have been taken over by burglars who have then decided to move in. In one of these incidents, two arrests occurred. Among the belongings found in the possession of these thieves were personal belongings and paperwork which could have been retrieved from a neighborhood trash can. It is important to remember that a person's trash gives a rummager a window into their personal world. In your trash are your discarded credit card offers, your banking statements, and your personal effects. If you are going to use your trash for the discarding of personal information, it would be wise to invest in a cross-cut shredder for your home.

Awareness is the Key to Prevention

Like most criminals, identity thieves seek out the easy targets. The thieves may go through your mail, your trash, or they may break into your car. You may be an unwitting accomplice to the thief by providing him or her with personal information which will allow for the accessing of your accounts. Perhaps your wallet or purse is stolen from your workplace. Take the active steps discussed above to ensure that you are not an easy target. Work with the credit reporting agencies, your creditors, the police department, and your neighbors to safeguard your personal information.

While the city of San Francisco has enjoyed an overall reduction of crime over the past ten years, crimes involving the theft of a person's identity have increased. This trend is attributable to many factors, among which are an increased ability to access personal information from the internet, aggressive solicitations for credit by banks through the mail, and the "easy-checkout" mentality adopted by many of the institutions with which we do business.

All of these factors, which make an honest person's life less difficult, also give easier and quicker access to the same accounts by criminals. In the worst case scenario involving identity theft, the entire nation learned of the sophisti-

cation of the 9/11 suicide hijackers and how some of them gained access to our airports using falsified documents.

While it would be unrealistic to believe that anyone can be totally immune from falling victim to an identity theft crime, a greater awareness and early intervention can reduce the odds and mitigate the damage which can be done. Now, more than ever before, it is important that each of us take steps to address this growing criminal trend.

Steps a victim should take

Inspector Bob Velarde of the S.F. Police Department's Fraud Detail emphasizes the importance of a victim promptly contacting both the police department and the three major credit bureaus upon learning of the identity theft crime. "Along with make a police report, it is so important that a victim contact each credit bureau individually. These are the first and most critical steps in dealing with any identity theft crime," says Velarde.

Aside from prompt reporting to both the police department and the credit bureaus, there are other steps which you may take. Contact your banking institution and insist upon the use of a password when accessing your account in person, over the phone or through the internet. Be sure not to use your mother's maiden name, your phone number, your social security number, or your telephone number as the access password.

If you suspect that you are a victim of identity theft, contact all of your credit grantors individually by phone and with a follow-up letter. Request that rarely used accounts be closed and that active accounts be given user access codes that only you know. If necessary, request that your old accounts be closed out and new accounts opened under a new account number. Remember to make inquiries with department stores, utility companies and credit card companies with which you have been extended credit.

Another favorite source of information for identity theft criminals is the U.S. mail. Thieves will intercept your daily mail by breaking into your mailbox and then utilize your personal account information to steal from you. Make a list regarding your monthly bills and note the billing cycle of your accounts. Monitoring your mail and your bills carefully, and noting when they do not arrive as scheduled, will provide you with an early warning as to evidence of fraudulent activity and identity theft.

The Three Major Credit Bureaus:

- Transunion, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, Ca., 92834. Tel: (800) 680-7289
- Experian (formerly TRW), P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX., 75013. Tel: (888) 397-3742
- Equifax Phone, P.O. Box 105069, Atlanta, GA., 30348. Tel (800) 525-6285.

Inspector Joe Engler is currently assigned to the San Francisco Police Department's Burglary Detail, and handles all theft-related cases in the Potrero/Bayview districts of the city. Contact him at 850 Bryant St., Rm. 405, S.F. 94130, or telephone 553-1351.

OOPS! . . .



Jimmie Potts, owner of Barbary Coast Trucking was preparing to unload his cargo of dirt for the mini park at the corner of Southern Heights and De Ilaro Streets on May 3 when something went terribly wrong: the truck turned completely over and landed on the sidewalk as well as on the park ground. Much help was needed to set it right, and with the help of an 18 wheel endump, managed to straighten the truck, so the waiting crew could shovel the dirt onto the park's ground.

Abigail Johnston photo

Young People Learn Sailing at Pier 38

eRide, a leading provider of location based technology solutions, announced their corporate support for America True, a non-profit foundation that promotes and introduces young people to the joys of sailing nationwide. With the donation of a 14-foot X3 sailboat, eRide is proud to support the True Youth Learn-to-Sail summer program at San Francisco's Lake Merced. Utilizing US Sailing's "Sailing Smart" course materials, this three-week instructional course will graduate more than 200 at-risk youth with boating safety, swimming, boat maintenance, and beginning sailing proficiency.

"We're grateful to the executive team at eRide for their support of our programs," said Dawn Riley, CEO of America True. "There are other sporting programs that work to serve young athletes through mainstream team sports. But not all kids fit into the 'run faster, jump higher' mold. As an alternative, sailing provides physical activity, fun, and achievement that reveals to each participant his or her own internal strength."

The America True Foundation's True Youth program works in partnership with the YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other inner city youth programs to provide free sailing experiences to at-risk youth in San Francisco, surrounding communities and across the United States.

America True is a non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation led by Riley dedicated to introducing young people to the joys of sailing nationwide. Founded in 1995, America True fielded the first-ever coed team to compete in the America's Cup, reaching the semi-finals in 2000. Today, Riley and America True are working to expand the sport of sailing by making it more accessible through the community outreach programs of True Youth. America True's headquarters is located at Pier 38 on San Francisco's historic waterfront.

Girls and boys in the True Youth programs have the opportunity to learn about the sport of sailing, and about themselves. They learn about weather conditions, water conservation, the physical principles of wind, and boat handling. In the process, they learn to work with peer teams and mentors, responsibility for their own equipment and actions, and to assess risk and make good choices. And they have lots and lots of fun!

Host Families Needed For Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive very soon for academic semester and year program homestays, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) Executive Director, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review

student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it be a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

San Francisco area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-800-631-1818. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.



The cobblestones of 24th St., looking toward Rhode Island from De Haro Street.

Ruth Passen Photo



24th St. Saves Its Cobbles

By Dick Millet

Anyone who has lived for a time on Potrero Hill knows that cobblestoned stretch of 24th Street between De Haro and Rhode Island. It's a very steep one-block-long section, with stairs instead of a sidewalk on one side, and many of the cobbles are not in the best shape. Several areas of missing stones have been filled in with unsightly asphalt patches.

The City and County of San Francisco and the Department of Public Works consider the cobbles a hazard and about two months ago posted a notice that sewer work was planned for the street and when it was complete the cobbles would be replaced with concrete.

The residents of the cobblestone block, both owners and renters, dearly love their cobbles, and believe they keep 24th Street from being a skateboarder's idea of heaven.

The neighbors handed together 6 weeks or

so ago to save the stones and the character of their unique street. Time was short but things started looking up when Boh Carlson and Patricia Libby brought their cause to the attention of Supervisor Sophie Maxwell of District 10.

Together the 24th Street neighbors, Supervisor Maxwell, and Edwin Lee, Chief of DPW, came to an agreement. The sewer work would take place, the cobblestones would be reinstalled afterward, and the city would repair some potholes. Other cobble replacement arrangements would be made with the contractors that had done the earlier patching work. From then on, the residents of the block would monitor and maintain the cobbles for the city.

The 24th Street group is happy again. The sewer work is underway.

Dick Millet is a Potrero Hill activist and a born newshound



Patrick Dougherty

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An Alternate Design Center

Former Baker Hamilton Merchants Emerge & Thrive on Potrero Hill

By Liz Kraus

The April 2002 issue of San Francisco Magazine, entitled "Our Dot Com Decade attempted to answer the all too important question "What really happened?"

They answered it by polling unemployed dot com CEO's, venture capitalists, Wall Street Journal Reporters and commercial real estate brokers. While all those opinions were relevant, one segment of the impacted population was woefully underrepresented, the merchants that were displaced during the dot com frenzy from 1998 to 2001.

Also noticeably absent from the map of affected city real estate in the article was the now ironically vacant but freshly renovated brick icon at the corner of Seventh and Townsend. This is the landmark Baker Hamilton Building, a onetime furniture collective in San Francisco's Design District, which in 2000, following their IPO was to become the future home of organic.com, a web design firm recently acquired by Seneca Investments, LLC.

For the 30 original merchants leasing Baker Hamilton, the bottom fell out when in August of 1999 all merchants received a notice to vacate. Their landlord informed them he would be leasing the entire building (250,000 sq ft) to Organic.com, a web design firm enjoying its heyday by designing sites for the likes of Blockbuster, Daimler Chrysler and Starbucks. Like many others, the landlord had the opportunity to quadruple his per square foot rental income and seized it. The lease terms were for ten years, which valued it at \$120 million, easily one of the largest real estate deals in SOMA history. The lease terms also permitted him to commence a \$45 million dollar renovation for the new tenant. Unfortunately, their dream tenant, Organic.com, never took occupancy.

Baker Hamilton merchants hit the street during the fever pitched commercial real estate frenzy of 1999. They competed with dot com companies tempting other potential landlords with boatloads of monopoly money.

It was clearly a landlord's market, as evidenced by the fact that some former baker Hamilton tenants now leasing Eppler's Bakery had to dismantle and dispose of roof top water towers and huge industrial ovens. They also had to agree to other leasehold improvements exceeding \$50,000 before the current landlord would ratify a lease. Obviously, the scenario would be different today.

Coincidentally, many merchants from throughout the city in the same predicament landed on Potrero Hill on 17th Street between Connecticut and Missouri. It has now scendipitously evolved into a home furnishings and design Mecca.

1. Potrero Gallery. World treasures for distinctive homes: The recent influx of Internet companies into San Francisco's Design District along with skyrocketing commercial real estate leases has forced Design Merchants to find creative outlets for their wares. One such example is The Potrero Gallery at the base of Potrero Hill and in the long shadow of the new Pacific Bell Park.

Five former merchants of Baker Hamilton square, a onetime furniture collective in San Francisco's Design District, have renovated the old Eppler's Bakery warehouse into a home furnishings and accessory center called the Potrero Gallery.

2. The Bath and Beyond and Kitchen Showroom

The owner is Jeffrey Burton and their phone number is 552-5001. This company occupies the former Consumer Distributors' Building. The building was originally retrofitted and designed for a dot com occupancy that never happened. Jeff Burton bought the building after his prior landlord on Mississippi was stalling in 2000 on his lease renewal. Their address is 77 Connecticut (at 17th Street).

3. Arch

They made what they refer to as "their big scary move" from Jackson Square to Potrero Hill after losing their lease in 1999. They describe their business as "amusing tools and serious tools for artists, architects and everyone." The owner's name is Susie Coliver and they are at 99 Missouri near 17th Street and their phone is 433-2724.

4. O'Kell's Fireplace

This is the premiere resource for fireplace design. They have been on the Hill forever and have witnessed the changes going on around them. Their phone number is 626-1110. Address is 1300 17th St.

5. Potrero Gardens

Another great garden/home resource. This nursery and retail store resides at 1201 17th Street, their phone is 861-8220.

Liz Kraus is the owner of Toscana Ceramics located in the Potrero Gallery

Recycle Your Old Cell Phones

By Lolita Sweet

Cell phones keep getting smaller and sleeker, so it's no surprise that many people are buying the latest styles. In fact, statistics show that at any given moment about 24 million cell phone users nationwide are considering purchasing a new model.

So what do we do with our old cell phones?

"Whatever you do don't toss it in the trash, even if it doesn't work any more," says Jared Blumenfeld, Director of San Francisco's Environment Department.

Cell phone batteries contain lead, mercury and cadmium. When discarded at the landfill, the batteries can release these toxic heavy metals into the groundwater, which can poison streams, wildlife, and drinking water.

The better idea is to recycle your old cell phone, or refurbish it. In addition to reducing the amount of potentially hazardous substances in the environment, reclaiming and reusing the mercury and other heavy metals inside the battery saves us from having to mine new raw materials. Verizon Wireless has teamed up with SF Environment to help San Francisco recycle cell phones, batteries, and chargers. But we do it with a difference. Whenever possible, the cell phones collected here are donated to the Verizon Hopeline program where they are repaired and sent to domestic violence support agencies.

The refurbished cell phones can be lifesavers. The agencies give the phones to victims of domestic abuse, who can use the phones to call 911 in case of an emergency situation.

"One in four families in the United States is affected by domestic

violence," said Rosario Navarette, Interim Director of the Department on the Status of Women. "With this new program, our ongoing efforts in the arena of reuse and recycling can now benefit San Franciscans in a very different and positive way."

San Francisco Int'l. Airport is a major contributor to the program. Travelers from around the world will accidentally leave their cell phones behind, and the Airport Police Lost and Found Department donates the unclaimed phones to Verizon Hopeline.

"SFO has donated at least 50 unclaimed phones a month since we heard about the program," says Airport Officer Ginger Huey. "I feel good about collecting these phones that go towards a good cause instead of putting them into our landfill."

Since October 1, 2001 San Francisco has put over 2,000 phones into the hands of the people who need them most. Other regions are now adopting similar programs. In Texas, for instance, more than 10,000 phones have made their way to help victims of family violence through statewide efforts.

In San Francisco old cellular phones can be dropped off at any Verizon Wireless store, located at: 600 Harrison St., 199 Pine St., 1 Daniel Burnham at Van Ness, and a new store at 1015 Stockton. All phones donated are tax deductible.

Lolita Sweet coordinates the cell phone donation program for S.F. Environment Department where she also works with neighborhood groups and businesses to improve recycling. For more information please call 355-3700, or visit www.sfenvironment.com



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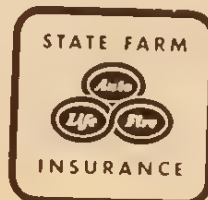
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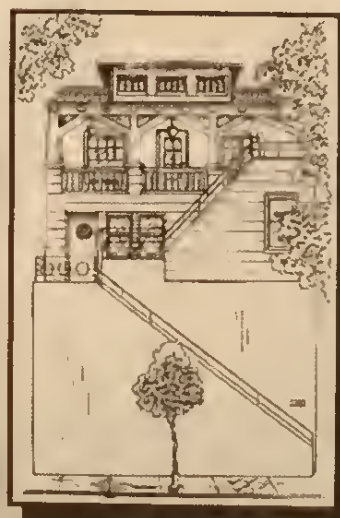
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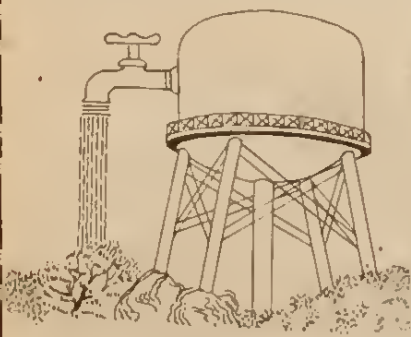
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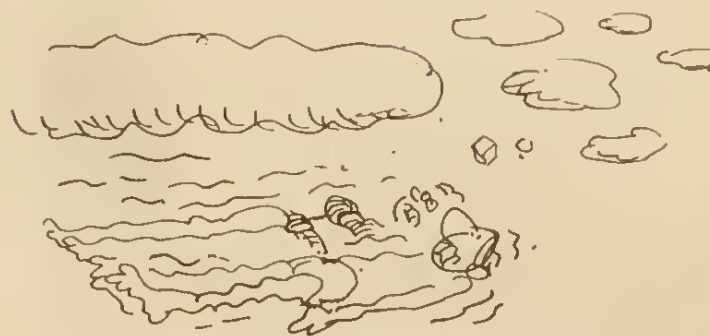
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